

## Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 091900Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6554

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 7941

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SA, US, PFOR, EIND

SUBJECT: KINGS LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD ON OIL PRICES AND

BOYCOTT

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM KING KHALID TO PRESIDENT FORD

ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9: TELEGRAM WAS IN FORM OF LETTER AND

ORIGINAL WILL BE POUCED TO NEA/ARP, ATTN: MR. CECIL. EMBASSY

TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

QUOTE:

DATE: 18/12/1396 AH CORRESPONDING TO 9/12/1976 AD

TELEGRAM

HIS EXCELLENCE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
WASHINGTON

THE AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA IN  
WASHINGTON INFORMED ME OF YOUR EXCELLENCE'S ORAL MESSAGE  
AND OF THE FRIENDLY DISCUSSION THAT TOOK PLACE BETWEEN  
YOUR EXCELLENCE AND HIMSELF ABOUT THE POSITION WHICH THE  
MEMBERS OF OPEC MIGHT TAKE CONCERNING THE PRICES OF  
OIL AT THEIR COMING MEETING.

I AM HAPPY TO CONVEY TO YOUR EXCELLENCE MY DEEP  
THANKS AND EXTREME APPRECIATION FOR YOUR EXPRESSIONS OF  
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GOOD FEELING TOWARD ME, AND TOWARD THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI

ARABIA. I LIKEWISE APPRECIATE THE PERCEPTION AND  
UNDERSTANDING YOU SHOWED CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION  
IN GENERAL, AND THE POSITION OF THE POOR AND  
DEVELOPING STATES IN PARTICULAR, WHEN ANY INCREASE  
OCCURS IN THE PRICE OF OIL.

CONCERNING THE PRICE OF OIL, WE APPRECIATE YOUR  
EXCELLENCY'S CLARIFICATION, AND UNDOUBTEDLY YOU APPRECIATE  
THE EFFORTS WHICH THE KINGDOM MADE TO FREEZE THE PRICE  
OF OIL FOR 15 MONTHS; WE DEFINITELY WANTED TO PROLONG  
THIS PERIOD AT THE COMING MEETING OF OPEC. HOWEVER,  
THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR OIL HAS LED TO A RISE IN  
ITS PRICE. LIGHT ARABIAN CRUDE IS NOW SELLING AT  
MORE THAN \$12 PER BARREL INSTEAD OF \$11.51--THAT IS, AN  
INCREASE OF 5 PERCENT ABOVE THE POSTED PRICE. THE  
CONSUMER IN EUROPE AND AMERICA AND JAPAN, MOREOVER, IS  
PAYING THIS PRICE, WHILE THE OIL COMPANIES ARE BENEFITING FROM  
THE DIFFERENTIAL. THE PRICES OF PETROLEUM FROM OTHER MEMBER  
NATIONS IN OPEC HAVE Risen BY MORE THAN 5 PERCENT. THE  
KINGDOM, NEVERTHELESS, SHALL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS WITH ITS  
FRIENDS IN OPEC TO LIGHTEN THE BURDEN, AND TO ARRIVE AT THE  
LOWEST INCREASE (IN THE PRICE OF OIL) THAT IS REASONABLE AND  
ACCEPTABLE.

THERE IS ANOTHER MATTER WHICH WAS TOUCHED ON IN THE  
DISCUSSION THAT TOOK PLACE BETWEEN YOUR EXCELLENCY  
AND THE SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR, NAMELY, THE MATTER  
OF THE OPPOSITION TO THE BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL.

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

THE ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL WAS NOT BORN YESTERDAY  
OR TODAY; RATHER IT DATES BACK 25 YEARS, (AND WE BELIEVE)  
THAT THIS TOPIC IS BEING RAISED NOW ONLY TO DIVIDE  
AND DISRUPT THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP WHICH BINDS THE  
UNITED STATES WITH ITS TRADITIONAL FRIENDS. THE ARAB  
STATES, MOREOVER, ARE NOT THE FIRST TO IMPOSE A BOYCOTT: NUMEROUS  
OTHER  
STATES HAVE TAKEN, AND ARE TAKING, AND SHALL TAKE SIMILAR  
MEASURES WHEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE--AND AMONG THEM  
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IS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ITSELF. AND AS FOR  
LIFTING THE BOYCOTT, THIS IS A MATTER WHICH RELATES TO  
WHAT ISRAEL MANIFESTS IN THE WAY OF GOOD INTENTIONS  
AND TO ISRAEL'S RESPONSIVENESS IN ACCEPTING A PEACEFUL, JUST, AND  
PERMANENT SETTLEMENT THAT WILL SATISFY ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT.

I MUST NOT FAIL TO POINT OUT THAT I NOTED  
WITH PRAISE AND GRATIFICATION PRESIDENT-

ELECT JIMMY CARTER'S REMARK THAT THE STATE-MENTS DURING HIS ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN ABOUT AID TO ISRAEL WERE AIMED AT LOCAL CONSUMPTION ONLY, AND THAT HE WOULD OPPOSE THE PASSAGE OF ANY LAW IN THE FUTURE AGAINST THE BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL. (WE ESTEEM ALSO HIS STATEMENT) THAT HE WOULD PRESSURE ISRAEL NOT TO TAKE ANY AGGRESSIVE ACTION AGAINST THE ARABS IN THE SOUTH OF LEBANON. THIS IS UNDOUBTEDLY A GOOD OMEN FOR THE TERM OF THE PRESIDENT ELECT, AND FOR THE SAKE OF HIS COUNTRY AND THE ENTIRE WORLD. WE WISH HIM SUCCESS AND GOOD FORTUNE DURING HIS TERM IN OFFICE. I EXPRESS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY, IN MY NAME, ESTEEM AND APPRECIATION FOR THE ASSISTANCE AND THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT HAS MARKED YOUR ADMINISTRATION'S (RELATIONS TOWARD) THE KINGDOM IN PARTICULAR, AND THE ARAB WORLD IN GENERAL. I PRAISE YOUR KEEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, AND YOUR NOBLE POSITION ON BEHALF OF RIGHT AND JUSTICE. I WISH YOUR EXCELLENCY A PEACEFUL LIFE CONJOINED WITH LASTING HEALTH, HAPPINESS, AND CONTINUED SUCCESS, FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I WISH PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SAUD AL FAISAL (ALSO) SEND THEIR BEST WISHES TO YOUR EXCELLENCY; MAY GOD PRESERVE YOU AND HAVE YOU ALWAYS IN HIS KEEPING.

(SEAL)

KING KHALID BIN ABD AL-AZIZ AL SAUD

END QUOTE  
PORTER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, BOYCOTTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760455-0563  
**From:** JIDDA  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 NOV 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <23 JUN 2004 by ElyME, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <05 NOV 2004 by blochd0>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**  

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KING'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD ON OIL PRICES AND BOYCOTT  
**TAGS:** ENRG, PPDC, EIND, PFOR, SA, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (KHALID, KING)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006